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(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: CARR, Alistair, James [NZ/NZ]; Private Bag 11 029, Dairy Farm Road, Palmerston North (NZ). COKER, Christina, June [NZ/NZ]; Private Bag 11 029, Dairy Farm Road, Palmerston North (NZ). KELLS, Brian, Ashley [NZ/NZ]; Private Bag 11 029, Dairy Farm Road, Palmerston North (NZ). ELSTON, Peter, Dudley [NZ/NZ]; Private Bag 11 029, Dairy Farm Road, Palmerston North (NZ). FERREIRA, Lillian, de Barros [BR/NZ]; Private Bag 11 029, Dairy Farm Road, Palmerston North (NZ).

(74) Agents: CALHOUN, Douglas, C et al.; A J Park, 6th Floor Huddart Parker Building, Post Office Square, P O Box 949, Wellington, 6015 (NZ).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING CONCENTRATED MILK PROTEIN INGREDIENT AND PROCESSED CHEESE MADE THEREFROM

(57) Abstract: Process for preparing a concentrated milk protein ingredient comprising the steps of: providing a membrane retentate solution having *kappa-casein* milk protein, adjusting the divalent ion content of said protein solution to a predetermined level at which no gel is formed after treatment with milk clotting enzyme, adding a food grade milk clotting enzyme under conditions where *kappa-casein* is converted to *para-kappa* casein while remaining in solution, terminating the conversion by removal or inactivation of the enzyme and concentrating said solution. The resultant milk protein concentrate ingredient is used in the production of cheese.

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